INTERSTELLAR SHARKS

The Memoirs of Yoram Lazur

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EMPIRE II
Interstellar Sharks

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Applesoft, 48K, DOS 3.3

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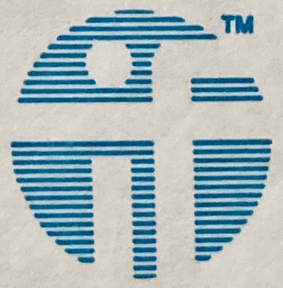

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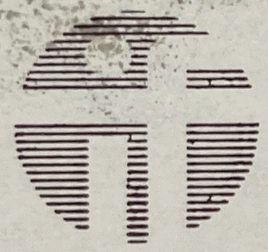

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by

David Mullich

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◄ PLANETARY STRUCTURE

The Planets ▲

There are eleven planets along the major space routes. They are:

Space Station: though an artificial satellite of a planet, this body is of greater importance than the planet which it orbits. Each character begins and ends his journey here.

Cobol: the seat of the Free Market. The Stock Exchange is located here.

Hwitrokken: the seat of the Technocracy. Many of the technology-oriented companies are based here.

Coporalis: a planet known for major breakthroughs in medical technology.

Apollin: a planet rumored to be a haven for the last worshippers of the Lord of Light.

Prothocole: accommodates the embassy for the only alien race known to this galaxy.

Wereguld: a planet perpetually engaged in civil war.

Agrosphaire: an agricultural planet.

Denieves: a planet only loosely under Imperial control; illegal activities flourish here.

Fyrokken: a mining planet that supplies fuel and ores to the Empire. It can be reached only by personal spacecraft.

Triskelion: the seat of the Imperium; it is protected by an enormous and powerful force field.

NOTE: The planet Fyrokken has no cities. The miners inhabiting the planet live in underground caverns. While the caverns surrounding the spaceport and mining office are ventilated, those on the outskirts are airless and entering them requires the use of VACSUITs. Do not venture into these areas unless you plan to **MINE.**

The Planetary Surface ▲

Now that the galaxy has been tamed, your planetside experiences will be confined to metropolitan areas. The exit from the spaceport leads to a road encircling a city. You may travel **FORWARD** and **BACK** along the

road. The road is bordered by buildings, parkland, and other property. You may turn off the road by typing **LEFT** or **RIGHT,** depending on the place you wish to enter. To exit, type **BACK** or **OUT.**

Businesses

Depending upon the economy of the planet, a landing site may have stores from which to purchase supplies, equipment, and other goods. You may also **SELL** some of your possessions to these businesses. However, some establishments operate illegally. Deal with them at your own risk!

Coronal Shipwright Corporation: a monopoly under the control of the Technocracy. This business sells components for personal spacecraft. It supplies both basic components (ship HULL, power GENERATOR, FUSION engine, ROCKETS, NAVBEAM, and ENVIRONMENTAL shield) and accessories (MOBIUS drive, ESCHER field, CARGO hold, REEFER hold, PERSONEL hold, AIRGEN, and BATTERIES). You may also purchase a VACSUIT and AIRTANK here.

Neurotech Systems: leaders in neurotronic technology. This Technocracy corporation offers COMPUTERS, interstellar JUMP programs, FLIGHTPLAN programs, NAVIGATION programs, and DAMAGE report programs.

Telcom Corporation: communications firm dominated by the Technocracy. Telcom leases LASERADIOS and NETHERADIOS for which they charge a small fee each time the equipment is used. You may also purchase an identification BEACON or a MACROPHONE.

Transtar Spacelines: found at most spaceports on major planets. The Technocracy maintains control over public transportation through this company.

Hybrid Foodstuffs: this agricultural firm supplies the Empire with FOOD, WATER, LIVESTOCK, VEGETABLES, and GRAIN.

General Mercantile: tools such as a KNIFE or DRILL may be purchased here.

Medisci, Inc.: a medical technology firm. Its stock includes anti-radiation MIST, HIBERNATION chambers, ARTIARM, ARTILEG, and GENETOSCOPE.

Mercenary Supplies: this black market operation offers such contraband as LASGUNs, PERSONAL shields, sonic BOMBs, and, for personal spacecraft, FIRECONTROL programs, DEFLECTORS, LASCANNONs, CODEBREAK programs, and SECRET holds.

Hedonistic Services: an illegal corporation cornering the market on drugs (SNUFF), prostitution, and the interstellar game of chance FIZZBIN. It is played as follows:

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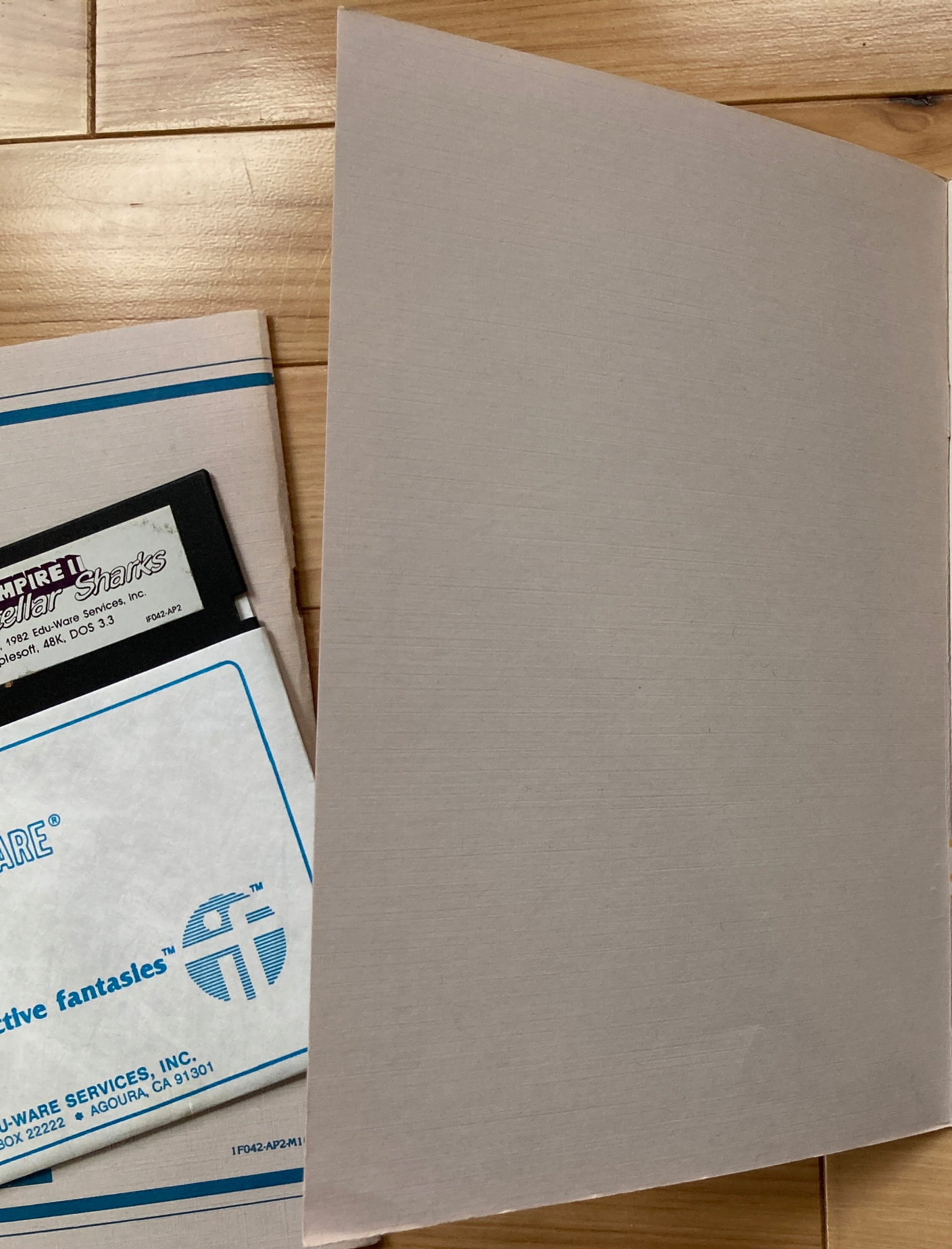

The Memoirs of Yoram Lazur

Excerpts from the Personal, Sociological, Historical
Documents Recorded By
the Twelfth Empress of Our Great Empire
and All Planets, Colonies, and Holdings Within Its Dominion

As Addressed to Her Daughter,
the Thirteenth Empress, Heiress to the Apex

Level A-3 Clearance Required

Library of Imperial Literature 1393 A.E. IF042
Compiled by Wendy Peterson

Escher, disgraced and despondent, lived the few remaining years of his life in isolation. He refused to see Truma-Ry, and she let him steep in his bitterness. It was not until after his death in 293 A.E. that Escher was reinstated by the Imperium to the status of Founding Father. This was a move aimed at capitalizing on the Imperial citizenry's fickle tendency for hero-worship, and one which I cannot in good faith condone. I will acknowledge its effectiveness.

Enough of this deflating talk.

You must reflect, my daughter. Appreciate the tremendous single-mindedness with which your eighth-great grandmother approached her directive; she allowed herself no distractions. Truma-Ry was fixated on the coordination and progress of MOBIUS. Yet the daily administration and growth of our Empire suffered little from her periodic absences. All seemed caught up in Truma-Ry's consuming drive. The intensity of her vision created a magnet so powerful as to unify all destinies.

Understand Truma-Ry's singular course, my daughter, and emulate. The time of your own Directive is upon you.

[During the course of Her Majesty's writing, certain confidential matters of state presented themselves which prompted the Empress to deviate from her socio-historical narrative. Toward this entry, and the entries of 13 and 15 Lune Juras, 19 Lune Siluras, and 1 Lune Juras, the Empire grants its indulgence. — ARCHIVISTS]

10 Lune Juras 1186 A.E.

I received a dispatch via nether radio from my distinguished colleague who hides himself away in the bowels of Hwitrokken's labs, only to venture into the light of day for annual sessions of the Triad. I mean, of course, our dear Escherman.

The communication was brief and rather choppy . . . I don't know whether to fault the source's lack of breeding or the medium. It seems there is a proposal in the wind to establish new Imperial policies and a companion technological development project called INSEM. Something about avoiding mishaps like the Seventh Dynasty. The Capulet reportedly has preliminary evidence of economic benefits.

I am a bit incensed that any research should be going on without my prior knoweldge and approval, but no matter. Should this prove to be more than our Escherman's status quo ravings, it could have significant impact upon the way you run your administration, my daughter. I insisted that both the Escherman and our friend Capulet confer with this office immediately.

13 Lune Juras 1186 A.E.

. . . this I think is an appropriate time for elaboration . . . Netherspace Radio (or nether radio) has been a boon to interstellar communications since it was developed in the Eighth Dynasty under Empress Verthandi Lazur.

In the labs of Telcom Inc., a remarkable collaborative effort between an independent thinking machine (ITM), and a leading electro physicist, generated the EVX (electro-voice exchange).

[See entry of 14 Lune Mar, re: A.G. Bel — ARCHIVISTS]

As you know, the device converts spoken words from their analog form into a digital one. Once stored, these digitized voice codes can be manipulated in the same manner as text, with no detectable distortion in the processed voice.

For clear and efficient communications, the ITM senders which handle EVX Mailbox Terminals for Netherspace Radio do manipulate messages to a certain extent, functioning as experienced editors for harried business persons and diplomats who have little time to craft a message. Primarily due to human error, there exists a 7% potential for misinterpretation by the EVX system.

This is why I questioned, in the back of my mind, the content of the 10 Lune Juras nether radio communication.

15 Lune Juras 1186 A.E.

I have been taken by surprise by a phenomenon once known as "aging." At the time of this writing I am 86 years into my service to our Great Empire, and suddenly I notice the minutes, hours, and days flow by at an alarmingly inflated rate.

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